Increase in the sowing land area

†2025. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the last few years, there has been constant increase in the area of land being used for sowing of kharif and rabi crops;

(b) if so, the average annual increase in land area separately for both crops during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the agriculture production in the country has increased in proportion to the increase in the cultivable land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the average annual increase in rabi and kharif crops during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The area of land being used for sowing of Kharif as well as Rabi crops has been increasing during the last few years, *i.e.,* 2005-06 to 2007-08 except during Rabi 2007-08 when the area sown declined by 2.04%. However, the total harvested area (Kharif+Rabi) has been constantly increasing during the above period. The year-wise percentage increase in the land area coverage under Kharif and Rabi crops during 2005-06 to 2007-08 over the previous year are given in the table below:

Season	Annual increase in land area covered under crops during			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*Average	Annual Increase
Kharif	0.96	0.77	2.10	1.28
Rabi	2.19	2.37	-2.04	0.84
Total (Kharif + Rabi)	140	1.35	0.58	1.11

*4th Advance Estimates released on 09.07.2008

(c) and (d) The latest information on cultivable land is not available. However, on an average, the area coverage and production of major crops during the period 2005-06 to 2007-08 indicate an increasing trend except in case of oilseeds. The details of the annual increase in the area coverage *vis-a-vis* production under the major Kharif and Rabi crops during the above period are given in table below:

Category	Season	Growth Rate in Area Coverage (%)				Growth Rate in Production (%)			
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*	Average Growth Rate	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*	Average Growth Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Foodgrains	Kharif	0.64	-0.07	1.25	0.61	6.35	0.64	9.40	5.46
	Rabi	2.22	4.42	-0.35	2.09	3.87	8.08	2.81	4.92
	Total	1.27	1.74	0.59	1.20	5.16	4.16	6.16	5.16

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Oilseeds			Kharif	0.70	-3.45	6.56	1.27	18.51	-16.44	41.61	14.56
			Rabi	2.04	-7.15	-10.88	-5.33	9.86	-8.33	-12.59	-3.69
			Total	1.24	-4.85	0.15	-1.15	14.88	-13.19	18.68	6.79
Cotton #			Kharif	-1.25	5.30	3.06	2.37	12.60	22.34	14.02	16.32
Jute & Mesta #			Kharif	-2.17	4.44	2.13	1.47	5.53	3.99	-0.86	2.89
Sugarcane#			Kharif	14.75	22.62	-2.14	11.75	18.59	26.44	-4.21	13.61

*4th Advance Estimates released on 09.07.2008

These are only Kharif crops

Price of wheat in international market

†2026. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present prices of wheat in the international market are low in comparison to the prices of wheat in mid 2007 and in the beginning of 2008;

(b) if so, the price of wheat in the international market during the aforesaid periods and its price in October-November, 2008; and

(c) the reasons for not reflecting the effects of decrease in the price of wheat in the international market on the sale price of wheat in Indian market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Prices of wheat in the international market in November 2008 are lower than those in mid 2007 and in the beginning of 2008. The prices of wheat in the aforesaid periods are given in the Table below.

Month-end Wholesale Prices of Wheat in International Market*

(Dollar/MT)

June 2007	January 2008	October 2008	November 2008
223.50	336.17	197.26	201.85

* Price in Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT), USA

Source: Public Ledger, U.K.

Monthly Wholesale Price Index (1993-94 =100) for wheat has increased continuously from 217.1 in June 2007 to 231.4 in January 2008 and 238.4 in November 2008. International prices fluctuate depending upon the demand and supply situation of a commodity in the international market, while domestic prices are influenced by domestic supply and demand. In India, prices of wheat are generally above the Minimum Support Price of wheat fixed by the Government of India at Rs.1000/- per quintal for 2007-08.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.